(*i*) whether the fitness of individual buses for the roads is being ascertained by competent officers on the eve of the several trips ;

(*j*) who is the Engineer responsible for the work;

(*k*) what is his pay;

(*l*) whether there is a proper gradation of Engineers and Inspecting Officers in charge of the work;

(*m*) the pay of the Engineers immediately below the Chief Engineering officer ; and

(*n*) whether there have been any accidents due to neglect or latches on the part of the mechanical staff attached to the Department of the State Transport ?

MR. N. RAMAMURTI (*Superintendent of Road Transport*) : (*a*) 84.

(*b*) 160.

(*c*) 84.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Increase in fare is not based on types of buses.

(*f*) No.

(*g*) In both types.

(*h*) No.

(*i*) Yes.

(*j*) The Foreman in charge of the Garage.

(*k*) Rs. 40-5-70.

(*l*) Yes.

(*m*) 40-5-70.

(*n*) Very few.

Over-crowding in Transport Buses.

140 ✻ **SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI** : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) Whether there is any restriction placed by law on the number of passengers to be accommodated in each Transport bus;

(*b*) whether over-crowding is common ;

(*c*) whether there is confusion and pell-mell haste and pushing and pulling among intending passengers when the buses start from one place to another;

(*d*) whether there is any provision for the presence of a policeman to preserve order on such occasions;

(*e*) whether the Police have any powers in respect of State Transport buses ;

(*f*) whether there is any law or order of Government exempting the Transport buses from the Police Act and the general laws of the State ;

(*g*) whether over-crowding in Transport buses is permitted because of the shortage of transport facilities on account of war condition which limit supplies of petrol and accessories ;

(*h*) whether the rules restricting the number of passengers to be carried in private buses have been relaxed; and

(*i*) if the answer to part (*h*) is in the negative, the reason for such differential treatments.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Page 1

MR. N. RAMAMURTI: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes; to some extent. This is the case at present in all Railways and buses throughout India.

(*c*) Intending passengers sometimes rush in when buses draw up at starting stations.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) Yes; to the extent provided in the Motor Vehicles Act and rules thereunder.

(*f*) No.

(*g*) Yes.

(*h*) Yes.

(*i*) Does not arise in view of answer to (*h*)

MR. N. SIVATHANU PILLAI: May I know whether the Government are aware of the scandal in the Transport Department, because the Government are running, the situation has gone very worse?

PRESIDENT: In Bangalore it is still worse in transport and military buses.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP: May I know whether it is not possible to issue tickets for the Transport Buses sufficiently early as in the Railways?

PRESIDENT: Order, order. Judging from the kind of people who travel in the buses, a few people may, no doubt, foresee their needs and buy tickets beforehand. What happens is this. In certain instances it is impossible to get tickets beforehand. For example, a man is walking along the road; he gets tired and while the bus passes him he waves his hand and gets into the bus. In such cases there is no room for purchasing a ticket beforehand.

MR. N. MARAYANA KURUP: I ask whether it is not advisable to issue tickets to the passengers who are waiting in the bus stations.

MR. N. RAMAMURTI: These arrangements have been made in express buses and not in other buses.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP: I am suggesting whether in the ordinary buses also that could be arranged as in the Railway.

PRESIDENT: Has the honourable member seen any of the railway compartments between Madras and Shencotta? In a first class compartment I saw on one occassion that there were six persons. On another occasion in a second class compartment, I saw that there were eight persons sleeping on the floor.

SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI: Has the Director or the next junior officer of the Transport Department ever travelled ten or twelve miles in a service bus?

MR. N. RAMAMURTI: Yes, Sir.

MR. T. C. KESAVA PILLAI: മുൻപ് ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നതുപോലെ ഏതാനും തപാൽവണ്ടികൾ-കാളവണ്ടികൾ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയാൽ കൂടുതൽ നന്നായിരിക്കുമെന്ന ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു അഭിപ്രായമുണ്ടോ? എക്സ്പ്രസ് വണ്ടികൾ വേഗതകൂടുതലിനുവേണ്ടി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയതുപോലെ ഈ കാളവണ്ടികൾ വേഗത കുറഞ്ഞിരുന്നാലും യാത്രക്കാർക്കു കുറെക്കൂടി സൗകര്യമായിരിക്കുകയില്ലേ?

PRESIDENT: That suggestion will be considered.

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